

# VICTORY IS A MUST FOR THE BLUES!



The Pistoiese team pictured before a League game last season. Pistoiese visit Loakes Park tonight to face Wycombe Wanderers for the first match in the Anglo-Italian Inter-League Tournament.

## The Pistoiese squad

BOTH teams will be allowed to use any two of five substitutes for tonight's Anglo-Italian tie between Wycombe Wanderers and Pistoiese. Here's a run down on the Italian squad.

**SERGIO SETTINI** (goalkeeper): born 12.10.50 at Rignano (Pisa). Previous club Fiorentina. Appearances last season totalled 18 and is first choice 'keeper this season.

**GIOVANNI DE MIN** (goalkeeper): born 23.8.40 at Asmara, Ethiopia. Previous club Verona. Sixteen league games last season.

**ARNALDO CREMA** (defender): born 18.4.51 at Montagnana (Padova). Previously with Torino, missed only three league games last season and a regular this term.

**STEFANO AGRESTI** (defender): born 12.3.56 at Barberino di Mugello (Firenze). Previous club Juventus.

**LUCIANO MENCONI** (defender): born 5.9.50 at Marina di Carrara (Massa Carrara). Missed only two league games last season after previously playing for Group D club Valdinievole.

**SERGIO BRIO** (defender): born 19.8.56 at Lecce, in the province of Puglia. A central defender whose previous club was Juventus.

**OTELLO GANTHALER** (defender): born in 1953 and a newcomer to the club from Group D outfit Sansepolcro.

**ERMES FREGONAS** (defender): born 20.1.52 at Motta di Livenza (Treviso), and played in 32 league games last season. Previous clubs were Valdinievole (Group D) and Trinitella (Group C).

**LUIGI TONANI** (defender): born 17.2.39 at Fombio (Milano), and the oldest player in the present squad. Played in half the championship games last season but has missed a few this winter. His previous club was Catanzaro, now playing in Group B.

**MARZIO MAGLI** (midfielder): born 17.1.48 at Florence and was with Fiorentina before moving to Pistoiese. Had 28 games in the championship last season.

**ANGELO VOLPATO** (midfielder): born 7.6.43 at Azzano S. Paolo (Bergamo). Previous clubs Fiorentina and Alessandria.

**LUIGI FARINA** (midfielder): born 12.11.42 in Milan. Previous clubs Arezzo and Udinese. Absent for only two league games last season and a regular this season.

**RICCARDO BERTINI** (midfielder): born 22.5.52 at Montecatini Terme (Pistoia). Nineteen league games last season but has missed several this term. Previous club Valdinievole.

**FRANCESCO CORIGLIANO** (midfielder): born 5.9.52 at Crotone (Catanzaro). Newcomer to first team squad this season and has appeared in nearly half of the team's league games. Previous club Alessandria.

**MARINO RAKAR** (striker): born 2.2.53 at Trieste. Team's leading scorer in last season's championship success with nine goals from 33 appearances, but has missed several games this season. Previous clubs Valdinievole and Trieste.

**GIOVANNI QUADRI** (striker): born 6.3.51 at Comate d'Adda (Milano). New to the club this season after previously playing for Torino.

**EMANUELE GATTELLI** (striker): born 21.12.53 in Rome and another new player who joined after last season's championship success. Leading scorer this term, after 11 appearances, two as a substitute. Played for Atalanta in Group B last winter.

Likely squad: 1, Sergio Settini, 2, Arnaldo Crema, 3, Sergio Brio, 4, Stefano Agresti, 5, Luciano Menconi, 6, Ermes Fregonas, 7, Emanuele Gattelli, 8, Angelo Volpato, 9, Giovanni Quadri, 10, Luigi Farina, 11, Marino Rakar, 12, Antonio Niero, 13, Franco Corigliano, 14, Vincenzo Anedola.

WYCOMBE Wanderers open their campaign in the new Anglo-Italian Semi-Professional Tournament tonight (Tuesday) when they take on Pistoiese at Loakes Park. And the Blues know that a victory is imperative if they are to stand a chance of reaching the final.

The standard of this competition, which includes F.A. Trophy winners Scarborough and crack Italians Monza, will be extremely high and the English clubs must aim for victories in the home legs.

The Anglo-Italian Inter-League Semi-Professional Tournament, to give it its full title, is the brainchild of Mr. Gigi Peronace, the delegate of the Italian F.A. in England. He decided to revive this tournament which was previously contested by professional clubs, the last winners being Newcastle United. Six non-league clubs from England and Italy were invited to enter.

Clubs from each country play each other on a home and away basis with three points awarded for a win and one for a draw. The clubs from each country with the best records will contest the final on June 20. As an incentive, Rothmans have thrown in £500 for each club but any disciplinary trouble will mean clubs losing a percentage of the cash. If a player is booked, the club loses £100, if sent off the fine is £400.

Wycombe's two opponents from Italy are Pistoiese and Teramo who play in Group B of the Italian League Third Division. Of the two, Teramo look the stronger side but Pistoiese's record this season suggests they will be a difficult proposition.

Pistoiese have drawn no fewer than 20 of their 32 matches this season, scoring 22 goals and conceding 25. Goals, it seems, are at a premium in the Italian League and it will be up to Wanderers to break through at Loakes Park tonight. Anything other than a victory will seriously mar their chances of reaching the final.

Pistoiese were founded in 1921. The club is situated on the southern side of the mountains of Pistoia, about 30 miles from Florence in the region of Tuscany. They had one season in Group A of the Italian League, finishing fifth from bottom, but last season stands as one of their most successful.

Under manager Dino Ballacci, who played for the Italian national side in 1954, Pistoiese won Group E of the Italian League with 49 points from 17 victories. Again, there were many drawn matches, 15 in fact, while in 34 league games, only 37 goals were scored and 11 conceded.

Looking at the Pistoiese line-up, it is interesting to note that last season's leading goalscorer was Marino Rakar. He needed only nine goals from 33 appearances to become the club's top marksman. Emanuele Gattelli is the leading goalscorer this term.

For the first time for over a month, Wanderers will be able to select from a full strength squad. The players must have benefited from a week's rest and there is



only one slight doubt over fitness. Terry Reardon was unable to train on Sunday due to an infected throat.

The Blues will be hoping to carry on where they left off last Tuesday against Barking when they won 4-0. Manager Brian Lee will have his full squad ready for action as any two of five substitutes are allowed in this competition.

The Pistoiese squad arrived in London yesterday and officials of the club will be dined by their Wycombe counterparts at lunch today. After the game, the home club will present a chair, the traditional gift of the town, to the Italians. The chair, made by Er-

col Ltd., will be inscribed to mark the occasion.

The Blues' other opponents, Teramo, will visit Loakes Park on Wednesday May 19. Wanderers are making the matches in Italy their club tour and will stay for 10 days. They meet Pistoiese on June 12 and Teramo on June 16.

A special souvenir programme on the competition, giving details and photographs of all the teams, will be on sale tonight at the ground. The 36 page programme costs 20p and proceeds from the sale will go towards the cost of Wycombe's Italian tour.

Tonight's games: Scarborough v Monza, Suffolk v Udinese, Wycombe v Pistoiese, Enfield v Teramo, Wimbledon v Benevento, Nuneaton v Siracusa.

### ITALIAN LEAGUE

Div 3, Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rimini	31	20	8	3	42	14	48
Parma	32	14	12	6	35	19	40
Teramo	32	13	12	7	35	22	38
Lucchese	32	13	10	9	31	24	35
Arezzo	32	12	12	8	33	27	35
Livorno	32	12	11	9	32	31	35
Anconi	32	8	15	8	27	26	33
Giulian	32	10	10	10	26	23	32
Massese	32	14	9	9	26	32	32
Pistoiese	32	6	20	6	22	25	32
Spezia	32	7	17	8	27	24	31
Empoli	32	10	10	12	29	28	30
Pisa	32	5	19	8	19	25	29
Grosseto	32	10	9	13	28	35	28
Monza	32	10	8	14	16	28	28
Riccione	32	9	9	14	31	37	27
Chieti	32	7	12	13	15	20	26
Ravenna	32	7	12	13	21	32	26
Sangiov	31	5	15	11	17	27	25
Olbia	32	6	13	13	23	42	25

## Dagenham still hope

TITLE chasers Dagenham visit Loakes Park on Thursday night with one aim in mind — three points against Wycombe Wanderers to keep them in with a chance of the championship.

At the moment, the Essex club must rely on Enfield dropping points as the latter have two matches in hand and are only two points behind. Any slip from Dagenham will make the title almost certain for Enfield but the Daggers are still hoping.

Although it would seem Dagenham have a greater incentive to win on Thursday, Wanderers must also win if they are to reach their objective of gaining a place in the top three and the cash that goes with it.

Wycombe will also be anxious to avenge a 1-0 defeat at Dagenham way back in September. Paul Currie got the only goal after five minutes and the defeat could have been heavier for Wycombe, who were second best on the day. Since then,

### ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

Top places, up to 5/7/76	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham	39	25	6	8	85	44	81
Enfield	37	24	7	6	75	28	78
Wycombe	40	22	10	8	62	38	76
Dulwich	39	9	13	15	35	76	35
Hendon	42	22	5	15	67	41	71
	42	20	11	11	60	41	71

A PENALTY competition for the Air Canada Shield will be held at Loakes Park on Thursday evening. See story on page 17.



## We're off to Italy, too!

THE 'Free Press' will be bringing you unrivalled coverage of Wycombe Wanderers Anglo-Italian matches in Italy next month.

After the two matches in England, Wanderers fans will be kept well informed as 'Free Press' sports editor Stuart Earp (pictured left) will be travelling with the Wanderers on the tour. He will be sending back full reports of the two matches and any other information on the club's progress.

The Wycombe tourists fly from Heathrow to Milan on Friday, June 11 and will stay overnight in Rapallo before getting down to the business in hand the following day, when they play their first game at Pistoiese. Kick off is at 8.30 p.m. and after the game, they move on to an hotel in Riccione.

The players will probably train during the next three days in preparation for the second match, this time at Teramo, a small town with a population of 50,000. Apparently the townsfolk are tremendously enthusiastic about the tournament and Wanderers can expect quite a welcome. Arrangements after the Teramo match depend on how Wycombe have fared in the tournament. At present a venue for the final had yet to be decided but if the Blues get through they may have to switch to another hotel nearer the location of the final.

The final is scheduled for Sunday, June 20 and the tourists stay until Monday before making the journey home. Flight time in London is set for 6.20 p.m.